Association of Bay Area Governments



Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area

July 6, 2006

To:

All Interested in Housing

Subject: Release of A Place to Call Home: Housing in the San Francisco Bay Area

Your copy of the Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) report, A Place to Call Home: Housing in the San Francisco Bay Area is enclosed. A Place to Call Home focuses on the Bay Area's housing shortage. The report gives local elected officials, staff, and residents the tools and data to discuss housing needs and the innovative housing and planning examples to use as models. It is designed to spur a region-wide conversation about how we. as a regional community, can incorporate housing into the existing fabric of our communities.

As documented in the report, Bay Area housing costs are high because there are not enough homes to meet the demand. There are many factors that have contributed to reduced regional housing production, including fiscal policies, government regulation, inadequate funding, and community resistance. At the same time, many Bay Area communities have taken steps to encourage housing construction. This report recognizes these achievements and captures specific strategies to meet the continuing regionwide housing need.

Report Highlights

Bay Area communities have made progress in meeting its housing needs. As part of the Statemandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), each city and county was assigned housing goals for 1999 to 2006 across a range of incomes. During this period, the Bay Area permitted 80 percent and constructed 73 percent of its goals. Jurisdictions met 34 percent of the target for very low-income housing, 70 percent for low-income housing, and 29 percent for moderate-income housing.

More still needs to be done. A Place to Call Home notes that Bay Area residents, governments, businesses, and community groups must still decide how best to accommodate the expected addition of a million people by 2020.

If you have any information about your community's programs or activities that we might highlight on a regional housing website or in other housing-focused documents, please contact us at ABAG's offices at 510-464-7900. We hope to engage you in this important discussion about housing and our region.

Sincerely,

Dave Cortese

ABAG President and San Jose Councilmember

Henry L. Gardner

ABAG Executive Director

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